

# EXTRA

PRICE ONE CENT.

# MONDAY—THE WORLD'S HALF-RATE SITUATION DAYS—SATURDAY.

# The EVENING EDITION World.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1891.

# EXTRA

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1 O'CLOCK.

## BY SHOCK

### Four Murderers Electrocuted at Sing Sing.

### Current Applied Twice, as in Kemmler's Case.

### Slocum, Smiler, Wood and Jugiuro in the Electric Chair.

### The First Man Was Killed at 4.43 and the Last Died at 6.06.

### Statements by Witnesses of the Quadruple Execution.

Prison, with electricity as a means of executing the death sentence upon condemned murderers, was made at daybreak, and is said to have been a success from every point of view.

Witnesses assert that there was no horror, in any of the four instances, similar to that of the Kemmler case in Auburn Prison last year.

It is asserted that the four men died without a struggle and with no indication of physical suffering.

This fact is asserted by all the witnesses, coupled with the statement by each that he is pledged to secrecy, as to details, by Warden Brown.

Slocum was the first to sit in the death chair.

It was 4.43 o'clock when he died. He walked to death bravely, and although a little nervous when he faced the chair, he calmly seated himself, and was electrocuted so quickly that the expression on his face was not changed, according to the reports of one witness.

Slocum was accompanied to the chair by Fathers Creeden and Lynch, who supported him in his trying ordeal.

Smiler came next. He was always cowardly, and he walked tremblingly to the chair, supported by Chaplain Edgerton of the prison and Rev. Mr. Law of New York.

It was 5.13½ when the electric current was flashed through his body, killing him instantly.

There was an interval of just thirty minutes between the deaths of these two.

Wood, the next to die, followed in twenty-four minutes. He was shocked to death at 5.38, and Fathers Creeden and Lynch, who attended him, said that he met a painless death.

Jugiuro, the Jap, was the last of the four to die. He had been threatening to make a last fight for his life, and it was deemed wise to get the others out of the way before approaching him.

Contrary to expectations the Jap was very docile, as is indicated by the fact that only twenty-seven minutes elapsed between his death and Wood's. This was a little longer time than elapsed between the second and third man, but shorter than between the first and second.

Jugiuro died at 6.06 o'clock.

#### DISPOSITION OF THE DEAD BODIES.

Immediately after a man was killed, his body was placed in the room in the rear of the electrocution room, where the autopsies began soon after the Jap was killed.

There are now but two murderers left in the death cells here—McElvaine and Trezza. The witnesses to the execution returned to the Warden's private apartments as soon as the electrocutions were finished. They were there breakfasted by the Warden, who desired to keep them all together until the autopsies were performed and the certificates of death were signed, according to law.

Fathers Creeden and Lynch went directly home for breakfast, as did Chaplain Edgerton and his guest, Rev. Mr. Law, the Towns chaplain.

#### DEATH WAS QUICK AND PAINLESS.

Rev. Mr. Law said he was pledged to secrecy, but he was willing to say that death had come instantaneously and painlessly, and he considers electrocution a decided success.

E. A. Brown, purchasing agent of the State Prison, said there was no doubt that the electrocutions were absolutely painless.

"The horse killed yesterday in the final test of the machinery," he said, "was dead before it fell. Its eyeballs were as natural as in life after death, and this was the condition of the men put to death this morning."

"Each walked calmly to death, and there was not a struggle or hitch at any stage of the proceedings."

"When the current was turned into a man's body he died so quickly that it was difficult to realize that death had occurred."

#### DR. ROCKWELL'S STATEMENT.

Dr. Alphonso D. Rockwell, the man who devised the electrode and who was one of the three commissioners appointed to supervise the electrocution, was the first of the experts to emerge from the prison.

Dr. Rockwell hurried to the depot to catch an early train for New York. He said:

"We are all pledged to secrecy; but I do not think I am violating that pledge in saying that all four executions were unqualified successes."

"The men all died painlessly and without a struggle. Further than this I cannot speak."

NEW THE MACHINERY WAS ALL RIGHT.

Ex-Warden Brush, who has been stopping for a day or two with his daughter here, drove down to the prison entrance this morning to ask how the electrocutions passed off.

On being told that perfect success had attended them he said:

"Of course, I knew it. I purchased all the appliances myself, and we tried and rejected many pieces. It took us a year to get the machinery perfected."

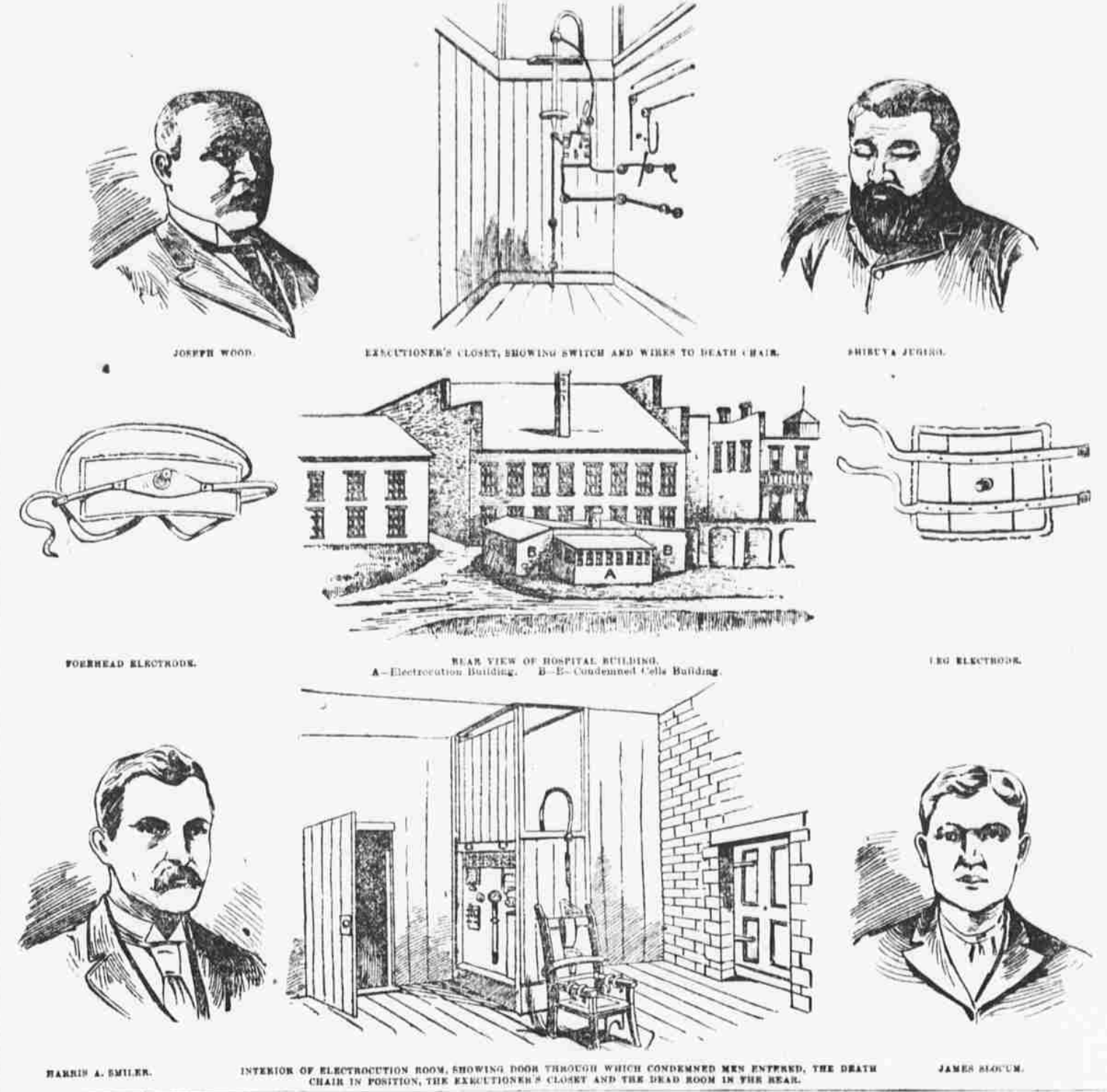
"When that was done, we killed the old black horse last fall, as told exclusively in THE EVENING WORLD."

"We gave the horse 1,000 volts, and he was killed before he toppled over."

"We could kill a man every two minutes with this machinery."

"I didn't see the execution, and I didn't want to see it."

Warden Brush added that he did not be-



lieve in electrocution. In the first place he said it was not deterrent of crime, and, besides, he considered it a barbarous way to execute a man.

Warden Brown says that he refused to grant Lawyer Hale's petition for a stay in the case of Woods, on the advice of Deputy Attorney-General Hogan.

Hale hung around the outside of the prison until the signal was given telling that Woods had been electrocuted and then started for the depot.

Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald, President of the State Lunacy Commission, about 8 o'clock drove from the prison to the depot, where he met an assistant with a case of surgical instruments with which to perform the autopsy on the bodies of the dead criminals.

#### MORE EFFICIENT THAN THE GALLS.

Rev. Dr. Law, Chaplain of the Towns, who was one of the witnesses, and with Chaplain Edgerton, of the prison here, attended Smiler in his last hours, has made this supplementary statement:

"The men died instantly and painlessly. I came here prejudiced against electrical execution, but now I am convinced of the success of the new method of administering the extreme penalty of the law."

"I thought it would take away the stigma of the gallows, which I believe to be a deterrent to crime."

Further Dr. Law would not say.

Questioned whether the paper signed by the witnesses last night was an agreement to preserve silence regarding the execution, he replied:

"We agreed to keep silence. I prefer to say no more than this."

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repeated in the case of any one of the four murderers executed this morning.

The rapidity with which the deadly work was done rebounds greatly to the credit of Warden Brown's management of the horrible affair.

In every case a single application of the electric fluid proved effective. Whether the men suffered in the small fraction of time before death ensued will be revealed, perhaps, by the autopsies.

#### DETAILS OF THE KILLING.

##### An Eye-Witness' Story of the Events in the Chamber of Death.

(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.)

SING SING, July 7.—One of the witnesses of the electrocutions, whose name, for obvious reasons, cannot be printed, gave to an EVENING WORLD reporter the following account of the occurrences in the death chamber:

"When the witnesses had gathered in the chamber some of them appeared very nervous, and all showed signs of a great strain on their sensibilities."

"The sliding door which concealed the switch-board on the outside of the executioner's closet was raised and the witnesses gathered about Dr. MacDonald and Rockwell and Prof. Landy, the scientists in charge of the electrocution, who proceeded to signal the electrician in the dynamo room."

"Five bells, the signal to 'get ready,' was soon followed by one toll, which signified 'Turn on the current.'"

Immediately the incandescent lamps on the switch-board gave out their white light, and the scientists turned the current into the voltmeter, then into the amperemeter, and when fully satisfied with its indicated power they informed the Warden.

"Warden Brown, Deputy Warden Connaughton and two keeper-deputies then entered the death-cell building to bring forth the trembling wretch who was first to pay the penalty of his crime."

"Fathers Creeden and Lynch were engaged with Slocum, when Warden Brown and his deputies entered."

"Slocum had been selected as first victim, and as soon as the good priests had finished their supplications, he said he was ready and stepped out of his cell with alacrity."

"The walk to death began. Following the Warden and his deputy came Slocum, between the two priests, who held aloft in front of him a crucifix, at which he steadily gazed. The two keeper-deputies brought up the rear of the fateful procession."

"Slowly the heavy doors swung back, and with solemn tread and mien the little procession walked into the room where the silence of death prevailed."

"They had but a few steps to take. The chair was directly in their front."

"As the leaders parted the chair stood out in all its awfulness before the man about to sit in it and die."

"Slocum halted at the Warden's command, just on the edge of the rubber mat which was to protect those who were watching his life go out."

"The doomed man's gaze was riveted on the chair. Then it wandered to the dangling wire, and the closet from which it was suspended."

"Back to the chair it came, like a needle to a magnet, and he started as though he had received a shock from the wire when the Warden began reading the death warrant, while the reverend men engaged in silent prayer."

"The witnesses were grouped to the left of the chair. The scientists stood in front of the switch-board watching the current, which they read like a book as it flashed in the fuses and through the recording instruments."

"The executioner was heard to rise from his chair to the closet and place himself ready to do his duty."

"With an attempt at a smile Slocum seated himself in the chair, and leaned his head back against the rubber rest as though he was simply preparing to be shaved."

"The forest snail remained on his face, and as Fathers Creeden and Lynch took up a position in front of him he again directed his gaze at the cross while Connaughton began fastening the straps."

"Slocum's eyes were clear, and he appeared to be in perfect physical condition."

"He took his eyes from the cross long enough to aid Deputy Warden Connaughton in his task, and then, until the shield was placed on his face, his lips moved in prayer, as he looked fixedly at the cross."

"The straps crossed and crossed his body, and his legs were tightly bound to the foot rest. Then his arms were fastened and Slocum could no longer move a muscle."

"Instantly an orderly arranged set of straps for execution, four men were summoned, prepared for death and killed by electricity in Sing Sing's chair in one hour and forty-six minutes."

#### ANXIETY ABOUT THE JAP.

There was a great deal of anxiety among the watchers in front of the prison after the flags had told that Wood was executed, for it was supposed that Jugiuro, the Jap, would make a good deal of trouble.

He was known to be violent and restless, and as the minutes passed and there was nothing to indicate that his execution had taken place, it was feared that he had made a struggle against his fate.

The time seemed interminable, but in reality only twenty-seven minutes had elapsed after Wood had been executed when it was announced that Jugiuro had gone to his last hour.

#### AUTOPSIES BEGUN.

The four bodies lay in the death-house at 6 o'clock, and the doctors proceeded to make their autopsies, beginning with Slocum, the first man slain.

All the witnesses agree that none of the horrible scenes at Kemmler's execution were

physicians among the witnesses drew near—while the laymen stood back as though not sure of their nerves.

"Mrs. Daniels, Southwick and Ward took especial interest in these preliminaries, and, with watch in hand, waited the signal."

"Warden Durston, of Auburn Prison, stood alongside Warden Brown and offered suggestions. All this had taken less time than it has to tell it."

"Prof. Landy's hand grasped the handle of the switch which turned the current into the wires in the electrocutioner's closet."

"Warden Brown raised his hand and Prof. Landy turned the switch."

"Then the Warden tapped on the closet. The unknown inside gave a quick pull to his rubber covered lever. The electric fluid was released before the sound of the tap reached Slocum's ears, and like the lightning's flash it sped through his body."

"There was not a tremor of the body as the physician counted the seconds, and when Prof. Landy turned off the current Slocum sat rigid and lifeless in the chair."

"When the electrodes were removed it was discovered that the skull and the flesh of the leg had been slightly burned; but there was no smell of roasting flesh such as made the Kemmler electrocution so horrible."

"The straps were unloosed and the body carried back into the rear room."

"Smiler did not hesitate when told that his hour had come, but when the death-chair appeared before him he almost fell to the floor. His knees knocked together, and but for the support of his spiritual advisers he would certainly have collapsed."

"Warden Brown quickly read the death warrant, and Smiler was hastily seated in the chair. His face took on a ghastly hue, and Connaughton got no assistance from this victim in arranging the straps."

"Smiler was bound and the electrodes applied in a much briefer time than Slocum, and in a few seconds Smiler also was dead."

"The same slight burning under the electrodes was noticed as in Slocum's case."

"Wood had been prepared by Fathers Creeden and Lynch while Smiler was going to his death, and he was all ready. He uttered no word when his time came. He walked to death supported by the priests."

"Wood betrayed no emotion when he gazed on the chair, but kept his eyes fixed on the crucifix."

"He sat down in the chair diffidently, and his binding was accomplished so quickly that it was only twenty-four minutes from Smiler's end until death came to him."

#### THEIR LAST HOURS.

##### They Order Their Breakfasts With Their Usual Care.

SING SING, N. Y., July 7.—The darkness of impending doom closing in about the four unhappy creatures locked in the little building behind the hotel wall, found them in the final acts of devotion.

Rev. Fathers Creeden, Lynch and Hogan and Rev. Mr. Edgerton had been with them many hours preparing them for the transition that was about to take place.

The doomed men seemed at last to be in full realization of their awful situation, but showed no sign of weakening."

While fully realizing that their hours were few the condemned did not forget to order breakfast with their usual care."

Rev. Mr. Wood, who had been for days looking his grim on the world, seemed brighter, his confidence and his courage seeming to receive new stimulus from the good priests."

Wood said to Principal Keeper Connaughton:

"I s'pose I'd better have beefsteak and onions again for breakfast. I'd not have many more chances."

Jugiuro did not vary his daily order for the past week, calling for sardines, raw onions and the like."

Slocum and Smiler's order began with oatmeal porridge and finished with ham and eggs."

Neither of the four referred in any way to their rapidly approaching end, but all by their silence, subdued manner and restrained, soft voices, as if they were in the sick room, indicated that they fully appreciated their dreadful predicament."

At the death hour, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the men lay down to sleep as if only the ordinary were in prospect for them."

In a peace in comprehensible these miserable creatures fell asleep, and during the still watches of the night, only their regular breathing broke the awful stillness of the wall and grated chambers of death."

Keepers Partridge and Baxter watched out their last hours with their charges to silence outside."

#### KEMMLER'S TORTURE

##### He Was the First Victim of the Present Electrode Laid.

William Kemmler, who killed his mistress, Mrs. Mathilda Ziegler, was the first and only other murderer who was executed by electricity, the new method of administering the extreme penalty of the law in this State.

He was killed in the Auburn State Prison on Aug. 6, 1890. The execution, according to great interest, as it was claimed that death by electricity would be instantaneous and painless."

In Kemmler's case it was the opposite in both instances. He was killed in a shocking manner. It was not a slight, paralyzing shock which took his life away, as it was claimed would be the case."

It was a succession of powerful, recurring shocks, as if the nerves were being torn piece by piece from the centres. The current was turned into the body twice. On the first occasion the electric fluids were continued for eighteen seconds. Then the switch was turned back and a careful examination of the body made."

To the surprise and horror of the witnesses signs of respiration were observed, and the current was hastily turned on again. The man's body took his life away, as it was claimed would be the case."

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